

Fun Facts:

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

TEACHING GUIDE

About Fun Facts

Fun Facts are student-friendly handouts that tie statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau to holidays, anniversaries, and other observances. These fact sheets, although originally created for teachers to use in classrooms, are easily adapted for use at home to keep kids entertained and learning. They are designed to be used at varying grade levels and across different subjects.



Using Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Fun Facts in the Classroom or at Home

Give student(s) time to read and digest the information in the handout. Below is a list of ideas for using the fact sheet with students at any grade level.

Any Grade Level

Discussion. Potential discussion builders include:

- What section(s) of the handout interest you the most and why?
- List at least two questions that come to mind when you were reviewing the data.

Lunar New Year. Did you know that the Lunar New Year is celebrated in China, Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Malaysia? Japan adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1783. Have students check out the Lunar New Year interactive graphic and explore data for the U.S. Asian population by selected groups that celebrate the Lunar New Year at www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/lunar-new-year-2021.html.

American Samoa. This colorful map illustrates census data about American Samoa for students in grades K-12. It will help students better understand the American Samoan population and their community by showing data on population density, median age, and more at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/island-areas/american-samoa/understanding-the-pop-guam.html.

Guam. This map contains census data about Guam for students in grades K-12 that can help better understand the Guam population and their community. You can find it at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/island-areas/guam/understanding-the-pop-guam.html>

Elementary School Level

Writing exercise. As the Fun Facts handout note, Asian American and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions to our nation. Students can pick one of the celebrities in this community to research and write five facts they learn about them that they can then read aloud to a partner.

Who's my age? According to the handout, the median age of Asian Americans in 2019 was 35, and the median age of Pacific Islanders in the United States was 29. Using the Census Bureau's State Facts for Students tool at <www.census.gov/schools/facts/>, students can research the number of boys and girls in their state who were ages 8 to 14 when the stats were collected – and compare their state's data with that of neighboring states.

Comparing data in a bar chart. We suggest you discuss bar charts and why they're used with your students – and have them check out the following bar chart at <www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2020/demo/aian-population.html> to share what they learn about the Asian American and Other Native Pacific Islander population. Students can compare the Asian and Native Hawaiian populations in the United States.

Middle School Level

News report. Have students use information from the fact sheets to pretend they are news anchors sharing information about Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Students can conduct more research to draft their news reports and read them to a partner.

Population by gender. Students can research and record their state's Asian and other Pacific Islander male and female population totals between 2010 and 2019 using the table "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2019" at <www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-state-detail.html>. They can use the data they collect to plot a line graph to show the nine-year trend.

High School Level

Sports fans. Students can learn more about the famous Asian American and Other Pacific Islander athletes listed on the handout by conducting more research and listing five to ten facts about them on flashcards. They can then take turns quizzing a parent or fellow student on what they learned.

Advertising activity. As noted in the Fun Facts handout, Congress in 1992 expanded this observance what is now known as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Have students work with a partner to develop an advertising campaign to celebrate the month and then share their ideas and discuss the role and importance of advertising.

SIS High School Map: Diversity in the United States. This map highlights U.S. diversity data for high school students. It provides demographic breakdowns by age, sex, and race. The map also highlights data on the nation's foreign-born population and educational attainment. You can find it at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/2020-resources/2020-maps/diversity-in-us.html>.